

RADIANCE

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Nichiren Buddhist Kannon Temple of Nevada
3920 Spencer Street, Las Vegas, NV 89119-5201
Tel/Fax 702-396-6276

SACRED WORDS

Ever since I took faith in the Lotus Sutra, I have chanted this sutra (The Selected Phrases of the Lotus Sutra) daily; because I made a vow before the Buddhas and protective Deities to expound the Lotus Sutra, I have endured many hardships and difficulties. It is solely due to the great merits of keeping the Buddha's golden and pure words.

Nichiren – Transmission Letter to the Selected Phrases of the Lotus Sutra

OBON MEMORIAL SERVICE JULY 17 (Sunday) 10:30 a.m.

The annual *Obon* Memorial Service will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, July 17th. Let us show our appreciation to our parents, grandparents, and all our ancestors. Please write your name and your ancestors' names or loved one's who passed away on the enclosed prayer form and return it to the temple with your donation.

This year we also pray for all victims of the Earthquake, Tsunami, and Nuclear Disasters in Eastern Japan. There are over ten thousand deceased and another ten thousand are still missing. Let us not forget their memories.

Refreshment will be served after the service.

The Lotus Sutra and Nichiren (No.4)

Rev. Shokai Kanai

(Continued from the Last Issue)

Four Great Persecutions

Nichiren presented *Rissho Ankoku Ron* to Tokiyori Hojo, the most powerful person at that time. However the government authorities ignored his petition. Instead Nichiren's hut was set on fire, was exiled to Izu Peninsula, ambushed at Komatsu-bara Pine Forest, and almost beheaded at Tatsunokuchi Execution Ground. Since Nichiren never backed away from these four major persecutions and because of his strong faith in the Lotus Sutra, people started to believe him and followed his practice of chanting, "Namu Myo-ho Ren-ge Kyo." The number of converts began increasing day by day. Then the authorities increasingly feared Nichiren and exiled him to Sado Island where the worst criminals were exiled.

He was placed in a snow covered hut with broken walls and roof in a cemetery on Sado Island in November, 1271. The government authority wished for him to die in the cold and of starvation; however, he was again saved by Abutsu-bo who first tried to kill him but became his follower together with his wife. In every persecution some miracle happened to save his life. These protections are promised in the Lotus Sutra. When his hut at Matsuba-ga-yatsu, Kamakura was torched, monkeys lead him to safety. When he was exiled to Izu Peninsula and abandoned in the middle of the ocean, a fisherman saved his life and sheltered him in a cave near the ocean shore.

When he was just about to be executed, a miracle ball of fire flew above the execution ground from Enoshima Island where Deity Benzai is enshrined even to this day.

All of these executions and protections by deities were predicted in the Lotus Sutra; therefore, the more he was persecuted, made him a stronger believer in the sutra and the firm belief that he was the bodhisattva in the *mappo* era sent by Sakyamuni Buddha. Thus, he wrote many important treatises such as *Kaimoku Sho*, *Kanjin Honzon Sho* and also revealed the *Mandala Gohonzon*, the center of worship. It symbolizes universal harmony, the Buddha Land, and the state of everyone being saved with the rays of the *Odaimoku*.

Clark County Use Permit Update

After stating our case to the Town Board, we were able to gain approval for a place of worship, under several conditions:

- 1) The landscaping around the residence cannot be altered in anyway (original plans were to add parking spots in the front yard),
- 2) Guests cannot park in the driveway (backing out onto a road is forbidden in residential zones),
- 3) Permit is good for 1 year and will have to be renewed again if we continue to use the current residential space.

So, for now we have been approved as a place of worship within Clark County and can conduct services freely. We will still be mindful and respectful of our neighbors and try not to intrude upon their serenity. We welcome all visitors to join us every Sunday for service.

In the meantime, we are still seeking your support of any amount towards the Building Fund so that we may be able to find a more permanent place in a commercial zone and move to it by May, 2012.

Eastern Japan Disaster Relief Fund

Bishop Shokai Kanai of Nichiren Buddhist of North America would like to express his sincere appreciation to all the people who contributed their warm-hearted donation towards the Relief Fund. The accumulated amount was \$7,025 and remitted to the Nichiren Shu International Relief Fund in May and June. Nichiren Shu will distribute the money to various organizations and people.

A Point of View
“A Tomb-Stone on the Dinning Table!”

Kumiko Kanai

The following is a conversation I heard from one of my friends recently:

We have dinner together with my son and his wife every Tuesday.

My son suddenly told us,

“Mom, I had a strange dream last night. There was a tall tomb stone on our dining table. I timidly saw it more carefully, it was my grandpa’s.”

Mom says, “Really?” (Laughing)

Son says, “It is not funny! My grandpa loved my elder sister the most.

Why did he appear in my dream?”

Mom says, “She was the first grandchild for him. Grandma passed away long time ago. Your dad and I were working all day long. You were born 6 years later; therefore, he was her baby-sitter all by himself till you were born.”

Dad says, “The dream means that he is sending a message that he wishes you to come to visit him at the tomb-stone, I guess.”

Son says, “I see! I shall go to see him at the cemetery next Saturday.”

Mom says, “Talk to your grandpa in various matter in front of the stone.”

Son says, “All right.”

July 17 is the *Obon* memorial service at the Kannon Temple of Nevada. Please join us at the service.

Messages from the Eastern Japan Disaster Areas

- About 30 minutes later, the first Tsunami came at a height of 15 feet. The water withdrew back to the ocean. Many people went back to their homes at that time. However, when the second tsunami hit, it was three times higher than before. The water came deep inland. When the water withdrew, it was so fast like a torrent and took everything with it back out to sea.
- Our family was able to run to higher ground, but when we looked back the way we came, we were shocked to see all of our house, factories, cars washed away.
- When the power restored weeks later, we saw on T.V. how the area was so heavily damaged.
- City water is not connected yet. When I stayed at a hotel in Tokyo, I appreciated so much how wonderful to have water by just turning a tap.
- We must prepare for power outage, and should better know how to cook with wood.

We must learn lessons from them.

End of the World of Kalpa of Destruction

Rev. Douglas Shoda Kanai

Buddhism teaches the four kalpas of a world just like one's life. They are the terms of construction (birth), Continuance (continue to exist), Destruction (death) and Emptiness (nothing exist).

In the news recently, there are many stories about the coming destruction of the world. The date December 21, 2012 is considered a day of reckoning when the apocalypse, world destruction, spiritual awakening or any number of other theories will occur. Most recently a minister in California predicted "rapture" on May 21st, but then changed the date to October 21st. Throughout history, many people tried to predict the end of the world so that they could leave this defiled earth and ascend to heaven, a much better place.

What many of these people do not know is that this world is actually peaceful.

Sakyamuni Buddha has stated as such in Chapter 16 of the Lotus Sutra. All we see is suffering because of our karma. We are not willing to open ourselves to the true nature of ourselves and accept responsibility for our actions. When we do not see the true nature of reality, we are basing our thoughts and actions on ignorance and greed. Ignorance and greed cause us to be blind and create the suffering that surrounds us. When we are sick, we go to the doctor to seek a remedy. Sometimes these remedies take some time to take effect, such as taking antibiotics which is taken over a course of a week. Cure is not instantaneous. These suffering people are blinded by their sickness that they seek instant cure for what ails them, thus they seek instant help from God to save them from this world.

Instead of seeking another place/world such as heaven, why not make it here? Since the Buddha has already proclaimed it so, we too must then try to emulate and bring forth his vision to reality. We do this by first looking into ourselves and understanding our own karma, our causes of our suffering and try to fix it. By chanting the Odaimoku, this will help in changing our karma for the better making us a better person. When we become a better person, we gain wisdom, when we have wisdom we are becoming Bodhisattvas. When we are Bodhisattvas, we begin to spread the dharma to others. When we spread the dharma to others, we bring forth the true teachings. With this truth, we begin to change the mindset of everyone. This will spread around the world, thus the suffering that we see and cause will cease to exist and the Buddha land will appear before our eyes in this world.

Just as Y2K caused much hoopla and hype that the end of the world was coming, it came in as a wimper. Nothing happened. So to, will December 21, 2012 come and go. In the meantime let us all chant the Odaimoku to better ourselves so that we can create heaven on earth.

EVENTS

July

Morning Chanting (Everyone Welcomed)	Daily 7:00 a.m.
Monthly <i>Kito</i> Blessing Ceremony	3rd (Sun) 10:30 a.m.
Deity <i>Daikoku</i> Blessing	8 th (Wed) 10:30 a.m.
Shodai-gyo (Chanting & Meditation)	10 th (Sun) 10:30 a.m.
<i>Obon</i> Memorial Service	17 th (Sun) 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Service	24 th (Sun) 10:30 a.m.
Private Japanese Lessones	Monday 10:30 a.m. /2:00 p.m.
Study Class on the Lotus Sutra	Wednesdays 7:30 p.m.
Rev. Shokai Kanai will visit Seattle for the <i>Obon</i> Service on July 8 th ~10 th .	

August

Morning Chanting (Everyone Welcomed)	Daily 7:00 a.m.
<i>Toro-nagashi</i> for Hiroshima/Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Victims @ Sunset Park 6 th (Sat) Time: TBD	
Monthly <i>Kito</i> Blessing Ceremony	7 th (Sun) 10:30 a.m.
Shodai-gyo (Chanting & Meditation)	14 th (Sun) 10:30 a.m.
No Sunday Service at the temple	21 st (Sun)
Rev. Shokai Kanai will visit members in Utah on August 19~22nd	
Sunday Service (Matsubagayatsu Persecution Day)	28 th (Sun) 10:30 a.m.
Private Japanese Language Lessons	Monday 10:30 a.m./2:00 p.m.
Study Class on the Lotus Sutra	Wednesdays 7:30 p.m.